

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street Richmond, Virginia 23219
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Virginia African American Advisory Board Members Present:

Gilbert T. Bland, Chair, Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair, Cameron D. Patterson, Secretary, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Xavier L. Beale, Larry D. Boone, Hope F. Cupit, Keren Charles Dongo, Dr. Ingrid Granberry Grant, Teri Helenese, Gaylene Kanoyton, Yvonne J. Lewis, Dr. Monica Motley, Precious Rasheeda Muhammad, Monica L. Reid, Yvette G. Robinson, Dr. Van C. Wilson

Absent:

Zyahna Bryant

Governor's Office Staff Present:

Pamela Northam, First Lady of Virginia
Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth
Marvin Figueroa, Legislative Director, Governor's Office of Legislative Affairs & Policy
Atif Qarni, Secretary of Education
Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education
Frances Bradford, Deputy Secretary of Education
Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Jae K. Devenport, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Gena Berger, Deputy Secretary of Health & Human Resources
Brian Ball, Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Angela Navarro, Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Grindly Johnson, Deputy Secretary of Administration

Additional Guest:

Delegate Lamont Bagby, Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus
Justin Bell, Office of the Attorney General
Danielle Campbell, Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Call to Order: (Gilbert Bland, Chair, Virginia African American Advisory Board)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gilbert Bland. Hope F. Cupit offered some corrections for the agenda related to spelling, updating of officer positions, and some grammatical errors. Those corrections will be submitted to the Secretary for inclusion in the minutes.

Following the recommendation of Deputy DeShazor, Hope F. Culpit motioned to approve the agenda with minutes being deferred to the end of the meeting which would allow members more time to review. That motion was seconded by Rev. Cozy Bailey and unanimously approved.

Public Comment: (Danielle Campbell, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration)

Danielle Campbell, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration offered an update regarding the purpose of the public comment. She concluded that at this time there was no public comments to be offered. She indicated that the purpose of the public comment period was to allow the public the opportunity to comment on items being discussed. Deputy DeShazor added that when we hold meetings in different parts of the Commonwealth it will allow individuals the opportunity to engage with our work.

Initial Recommendations to the Governor & Leveraging Surveys for Community Input: (Gilbert Bland, Chair, Virginia African American Advisory Board)

Chairman Bland offered an update on the letter and recommendations that we will provide to the Governor. Based on the meeting held today Chairman Bland and Dr. Monica Motley will work to capture all of the comments and write the report. The report will be submitted to the board on Friday. Gaylene Kanoyton asked for the inclusion of the census and small business support.

Secretary Deshazor reminded us that this is a compromise because we have not had the opportunity to meet enough to craft a full report. But we will be able to do an action plan based on this meeting.

Chairman Bland said that we should make sure to know what has been introduced via the Governor and Legislative Black Caucus so that we can endorse key items.

Moving forward Secretary Deshazor recommended that we offer recommendations by the end of September so that we can be in alignment with the Governor's Legislative Development Schedule.

Chairman Bland mentioned that as we move through our agenda we will be meeting in different localities across the Commonwealth. He encouraged us to think about ways we can engage the communities we are in. We want to achieve maximum effectiveness.

Dr. Monica Motley transitioned to the survey and process for community input. This was based on the meeting that the Survey Working Group recently held.

Dr. Monica Motley mentioned that there are key items we want to keep in mind when designing the survey. She mentioned that we must keep our priorities in mind. She also asked do we want

to ask questions in a retrospective form or forward thinking form. Dr. Monica Motley mentioned that we also want to think about who we want to ask as well. We also want to think about sample size as well. How many folks do we need to survey to make sure we get a strong sample size. Dr. Monica Motley recommended that we need atleast 250 people to make sure that the survey is reflective of the African American community.

Chairman Gil Bland asked about geographical input. Dr. Monica Motley said that we should have a working group focused on that and how we disseminate. Gaylene Kanoyton said that we should aim higher and try to get 250 participants in each region of the Commonwealth. Dr. Monica Motley said that we can pay attention to information that stands out even if it doesn't stand out in the data. Dr. Monica Motley mentioned that we should be open and transparent about the process and what we are doing and that if we set a goal then we should be able to meet it. Mrs. Yvonne Lewis mentioned the Baptist Union would be meeting after Mother's Day this year and would be good group to engage with regarding the survey. There will be a couple of hundred individuals in attendance.

Dr. Motley mentioned that we could have a Questionnaire Format, Content, and Logistic Group. Dr. Motley mentioned that we could also do a pilot group so that we could test survey. Dr. Ingrid Gransberry mentioned triangulating the data. Dr. Motley said it was ideal. Due to timing within our agenda Deputy Secretary DeShazor asked that we revisit this conversation later in the meeting.

Legislative Update: (Marvin Figueroa, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs)

Marvin Figueroa introduced himself to the group. He referenced the structure of the Governor's Office of Policy & Legislative Affairs. Marvin mentioned that the office has 9 employees. Key staff members include the Director of Legislative Affairs & Policy and staff for outreach and policy formation. Marvin works to help craft policy to meet an intended goal. Then we have a Policy Director to make sure everything is well researched. Areas of focus for the Governor include;

- 1.) Affordable Housing – A lot of healthcare depends on Housing. Decent place to live. For example, if your recovering from addiction or mental illness then you need stable housing. Chairman Bland asks what it specifically means for stable housing. Marvin mentioned work with evictions and housing discrimination.
- 2.) Education – Proposing 145 million for G3 (Get Skill, Get Job, Give Back). The idea is that if you want to go back to community college and you're an adult we will help you make that transition and provide for some of the other life expenses. Focusing on IT, Education, Trades, ect. Non-Traditional students are an important focus. Teri asked about recouping financial aid dollars for someone that doesn't complete. Marvin mentioned that

there was some debate around that and it is still being worked through. Dr. Grant asked what we can do to support educators. She mentioned that rising debt is hurting our teachers.

- 3.) Maternal Health – Investing 22 million in reducing maternal health outcomes amongst African American women. The disparity is unacceptable. How do we increase dula access and how do you help folks navigate health care system. Mortality rates and increasing so we need to look at how long folks can stay on medicade Also going to increase implicit bias training. How do we work with healthcare professionals so they can understand their patients and the communities in which they serve.

Yvonne Lewis asked about Community Services Boards. Marvin mentioned that we are working with the Boards and making sure that they are getting adequate funding. Marvin mentioned that we need more people of color to enter mental health professions and we must train them.

Chairman Gil Bland asked about Pre-K. Marvin mentioned that over 90 million has been invested in this budget for Pre-K. The focus is 3-4 at risk children. It matters that person is in quality education. Taking some of services that live in social services and moving to Education Department. Want to create a hub of services that make it easier for access. Also working to figure out same thing with Women and Children. Want to bring programs like WIC, Snap, ect. Want to make it so that there is one application, similar dates. How over 340,000 individuals that have been signed up for medicade expansion. It is having an impact in African American communities. This year we have language on making sure providers are culturally competent. Now want to make it easier for immigrants and just use the national standard. We have 8 proposals related to gun violence prevention. (Universal Background Checks, Red Flag Laws, Reporting Stolen or Lost Firearms, ect). It will be important for Virginia to have the conversation. Chairman Gil Bland mentioned that Hampton Roads has the highest percentages of prostate cancer for African American men. Chairman Gil Bland asked that there be a consideration of PSA's or some campaign to present information. Marvin mentioned that we have to consider methods for communication, health care literacy, making sure that we have adequate providers, and making sure that transportations are provided.

Increasing age for being tried as an adult. Federal Larceny increasing to \$1,000. Looking at what parole reform looks like and geriatric and compassionate reform. Gaylene Kanoyton asked about SB16 and Sanctuary Cities. Marvin said that Public Safety would be better able to discuss that. Chief Boone mentioned the need to push violence amongst black men as a national health crisis.

Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Update: (Delegate Lamont Bagby, Chair, Virginia Legislative Black Caucus)

Del. Lamont Bagby, Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus offered thanks to the Virginia African American Advisory Board. Del. Bagby mentioned his emotion related to introducing the Virginia African American Advisory Board amendment. Del. Bagby also offered his number (804.400.8787). Xavier Beale mentioned that we should make sure to aim workforce and

economic empowerment issues towards communities of color. Gaylene Kanoyton also mentioned the regional green gas initiative. Gaylene Kanoyton wants to make sure that African American communities receive appropriate resources and that we also for a focus on evictions. Yvette Robinson wants to know how to work with the Black Caucus considering new the new Senator in the Petersburg area. Del. Bagby indicated that members will continue to share concern about the needs of that district and that they he is working with the Senator on issues such as payday lending. Bagby mentioned that seven committees out of fourteen committees in the House of Delegates will be held by Legislative Black Caucus members. Some committees including Appropriations, Courts, and Privileges and Elections. Impressive to see the increased impact of the Legislative Black Caucus.

2020-2021 Strategic Planning Session (Part 1: Dr. Cheryl Ivy Green, Vice Chair, Virginia African American Advisory Board)

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Vice Chair revisited some of the items that we wanted to focus on our previous meeting. She posed the question of what do we want to accomplish? Items shared include;

- Black Table Talks & State of Black Virginia
 - *Offered by Gaylene Kanoyton and Cheryl Ivey Green*
- Championing Legislation
 - *Offered by Gaylene Kanoyton*
- Engage with Media
 - *Offered by Chairman Gil Bland*
- Make more use of Social Media to help with Branding
 - *Offered by Chairman Gil Bland*
- We need Credible & Viable Content.
 - *Offered by Teri Helenese. Teri Helenese also recommended that we assist with putting out content)*

Dr. Cheryl Ivey wanted to make sure that our plan is doable and achievable. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned that we should focus on building partnerships. Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green mentioned our role of doing studies and reporting annually to the Governor. Chairman Gil Bland wanted to discuss how we get appropriate data. Chairman Gil Bland mentioned the possibility of partnering with a state institution and requesting funding for a professional research database. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned that the information exist (JLARC, Poverty Law Center). Daniel Campbell mentioned that the information can be put onto the website. We just need to request it. Teri Helenese mentioned the Virginia Poverty Law Center. Precious Rasheedda Muhammad mentioned that we could do PSA's to focus on such topics as predatory lending and create a video that we can provide to schools. Precious Rasheedda Muhammad mentioned that other advisory boards have programs that engage youth. Chairman Gil Bland mentioned that other Boards have programs in that area. Gaylene mentioned that we could sponsor the Governor's

Black History Month reception. Daniel said that we need to get approval and explore that because the planning for that event is in the works. Chairman Gil Bland mentioned that we can think of events in our community that we can sponsor event if the board can't be in attendance. Cameron Patterson mentioned that we should consider adding on to our already scheduled meetings a listening session or panel where we can share information and engage with the public. Cameron added that it might make for better use of our time since these meetings are already on the calendar and scheduled in different areas. Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green summarized some of the items that we had discussed.

- Branding
- Championing Legislation
- Black Table Talks
- Partnerships with HBCU & Other Universities
- Fact Finding & Research Data & Funding for Research
- Fundraising (Present Awards & Host Reception)
- Social Media & Branding
- Census 2020

Based on the timing for our agenda we moved to the next topic with the goal of continuing this conversation as we continued to develop our action report.

Administrative Updates: (Danielle Campbell, Special Assistant for Advisory Board Administration)

Danielle Campbell offered an update regarding the website and all of its components. Danielle Campbell mentioned that she will schedule remaining headshots likely for the next meeting. Teri Helenese asked about website metrics. Danielle Campbell said that IT keeps that information and that it can be provided upon request. Yvonne Robinson asked the url and announcing the website. Danielle provided the url. Danielle mentioned that social media can be embedded into the website and that committees will be added once they are formed. Danielle is also working on bylaws and operating procedures. Once approved it will be added. Chairman Gil Bland asked what the process would be for adding resources. Danielle Campbell said the Board would determine that. Danielle Campbell shared the other advisory boards sites as well.

2020-2021 Strategic Planning Session Part II: (Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth)

Education- Pre- K-12 & Higher Education: (Education Secretariat and First Lady Northam)

First Lady Northam shared a story regarding Danielle Campbell and Kendey Wiley who unveiled a portrait recently at the Governor's Mansion. First Lady Northam asked "Can you feel the winds of change"?

First Lady Northam mentioned that she feels the winds of change related to early childhood education. She thanked Virginia African American Advisory Board on behalf of the Governor. She thanked us for making Education a priority. She thanked Chief Schools Readiness Officer Jenna Conway for her work in this area. First Lady Northam shared some statistics regarding early child education and its impact on marginalized communities within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

First Lady Northam mentioned the 10 million dollar Preschool Development Grant secured federally. First Lady Northam mentioned the 33 million dollar federal grant recently received to continue this work. The goal is to prepare our students to start kindergarten and start them off at a level playing field. The First Lady indicated that we want students to be school ready. We want to help students reach their full potential. All children capable of success. Education is the most single important civil rights issue that we face today. Chairman Gil Bland asked what we could do to support this initiative. The First Lady mentioned that she would love a support and endorsement for the historic financial investment in Pre-K education. Hope F. Cupit also asked about getting parents involved. First Lady Northam mentioned the importance of that.

Dr. Ingrid Grant asked what we were doing to support the socio emotional needs of students. First Lady Northam mentioned the need to reach children early with enriched support.

Deputy Secretary Holly Coy offered a one page sheet on the early childhood education package to members present. Secretary Atif Qarni gave a big picture update about the work of his office. He says his office has traveled the Commonwealth listening. Secretary Qarni spoke of the need for School Counselors and the fact that the Governor's budget package calls for the gold standard related to that. Secretary Qarni spoke of at-risk add-ons. He also spoke of the teacher ratios for our English language learners which is included in the budget. The Governor has proposed a new revenue source for gaming. The Governor proposed a 3% raise for educators. The Secretary also spoke of new pathway for G3 which is a new tuition free community college model that focuses on high need areas. G3 stands for Get a Skill, Get a Job, and Give Back. Secretary Qarni mentioned that what good about it and helps to set it apart from other models across the country is the stipend that students would receive to focus on wrap around services to help limit barriers. Secretary Qarni also spoke of the HBCU package for our two public HBCU's Norfolk State and Virginia State. Secretary Qarni spoke of the Virginia Museums receiving funding for African History Education.

Deputy Secretary Coy mentioned the Early Childhood Education Package. She mentioned that folks receiving funding will be required to participate in a Quality Review process. Deputy Secretary Coy also mentioned consolidating childhood education programs under the Virginia Department of Education. Chairman Gil Bland asked about the SOL results particularly related

to struggles with reading and writing. Dr. Ingrid Grant asked about putting our best teachers in at-risk schools.

Deputy Secretary Bradford talked about the G3 Community College initiative. Deputy Secretary Bradford spoke on the Amazon deal and impact for higher education. She also spoke about financial aid and the new model to distribute the aid to schools that have the neediest students. Virginia Private School Tuition assistance is increased. Deputy Secretary Bradford mentioned the Lumnia Foundation grant recently received. Deputy Secretary Bradford mentioned that the Governor is hosting Equity Summit on April 27, 2020. Institutions will be coming up with strategies on how to close the gap. A program called U-Teach to train Minorities in steam areas (Virginia State & Norfolk State) has also been added.

Dr. Monica Motley asked about the inclusion of rule areas into budgetary decisions even when the data might not be available to support like in other areas. Cameron Patterson also wanted to ensure that our PWI's are not forgotten in the conversations related to increasing access amongst underrepresented populations. Those institutions have a responsibility and in some parts of the state are in a better position to provide resources. Secretary Qarni mentioned that there is more work being done to collect data and offered some examples of work being done in other areas. Deputy Secretary Bradford mentioned engagement with higher education centers and online opportunities as a way to continue to increase access as well.

Criminal Justice- Juvenile & Adult: (Public Safety and Homeland Security Secretariat)

Secretary Moran mentioned the 8 pieces of gun legislation. Secretary Moran mentioned concerns related to January 20th and some groups that are planned to visit.

Secretary Moran mentioned legislative priorities (attached to the minutes)

- De-criminalize Marijuana Possession
- Considering Age in Parole Decisions
- Considering Medical Condition in Parole Decisions
- Fairness in Sentencing: Fishback v. Commonwealth
- Raising the Threshold for Felony Larceny
- Ending Suspended Driver's Licenses – Unpaid Fines & Fees
- Ending Suspended Driver's License – Non-Driving Related Offenses
- Trying Juveniles as Adults
- Fairness in "Writs of Actual Innocence"
- Credit for Community Service

Hope F. Cupit asked about Militias and how dangerous they have become in her communities. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned the second amendment and how the conversations have become tense.

Dr. Monica Motley spoke about how these issues are happening in Northern Virginia.

Housing and Small Business- Procurement and Access to Capital: (Commerce and Trade Secretariat)

Before the start of the Housing and Small Business discussion, conversation ensued about gun safety and concerns about being safe.

Terri Helenese asked with is the African American Advisory Board's role as it relates to African American History in the school system? Chairman Bland mentioned that there is already a commission dealing with that issue. Terri Helenese wanted to remind the group that we should not work in Silos.

Mr. Brian Ball greeted the group. He mentioned that he has spoken around the state about the housing and small business topic, he specifically mentioned Portsmouth and Norfolk. Other topics that he has addressed around the state are as follows:

- Economic Development
- Jobs around Virginia
- Capital Investment for business to come

Mr. Ball mentioned that the State Government is committed to economic development and achieving growth throughout the state. He stated that what makes economic development strong in the state is the site. If the business cannot get in the right site, then that business will go elsewhere. He mentioned projects in the state 1) Truck Manufacturing in Dublin, Va, at the Volvo Plant and 2) Pharmaceutical operations in the Shenandoah Valley. He also spoke about the Ikea Plant that closed in Danville, VA. In addition to economic development, the state is also putting resources into workforce development to assist businesses growth across the state.

Chairman Bland asked was there a shift from Department of defense to private sector jobs?

Mr. Ball answered that the state is not discouraging defense contracts but wanted the group to know that sequestration have ruined things in the past. The state is very focused on other things outside of defense. He mentioned Amazon, Micron and Ship manufacturing as a few other options for business growth.

Angela Navarro also mentioned that there are other areas of commerce and trade as it relates to small business growth. She wanted the group to know that 90% of business in the Commonwealth is small business.

Terri Helenese asked what are the other major employers in the state other than Amazon?

Mr. Ball mentioned that Agriculture and Forestry are the largest industries in the state followed by shipbuilding. Shipbuilding is a stable business industry in the Commonwealth. He noted that we need to find out what are our strengths in the state to also help Entrepreneurs to become successful.

Angela Navarro stated that Amazon is not big yet. There is a problem with hiring computer scientist and other high tech staff in the state. That is why workforce development is of concern. She also stated that Higher Education institutions have to recognize SWAM standards as well. She wanted us to note that construction is included in SWAM.

Mr. Bland asked how will the state consider minority suppliers and how is that being handled?

Mr. Ball stated his office is focusing on that and he is very much aware of SWAM.

Angela Navarro made the group aware of executive order 35 which was announced in July 2019 by the Governor. The executive order establishes goals and programs aimed at expanding opportunities for Virginia's small women and minority and service disabled veteran owned business. The state is reaching out to private companies as it relates to engaging SWAM certified participants. The state is doing better with marketing and outreach for the SWAM program.

Gaylene Kanoyton stated that a lot of minorities want to be in the marijuana and CBD oil game but feel that they are being left out, what can you all do to look into this? She also felt that it is not a leveled playing field.

Angela Navarro suggested we talk with Agriculture at our next meeting to dive deeper into this discussion.

Justin Bell stated that he is also the council for the Agricultural Board and he reminded the group to look at the Commonwealth calendar to attend other meetings.

Mr. Brian Ball wanted to switch the discussion to housing. He stated that there is a great deal of money in the budget for housing. Most of the funds are being geared towards housing affordability and homelessness.

Chairman Bland asked what Agency is the conduit of the housing funds?

Angela Navarro stated that DHCD and VHDA are the Agencies that oversee the funds and distribute them to nonprofits and mostly private developers. She stated anyone can apply. The Agencies review the applications and then the Governor approves them. It was noted that landlords have discriminated against cash vs voucher renters.

Chairman Bland asked will these housing bills be incremental?

Mr. Ball stated yes these bills will be incremental. He also stated late fees will be addressed on rent payments. The state wants to see rental late fees reduced.

Angela Navarro also added that affordable housing issues exist across the Commonwealth, especially in urban and rural areas. She wants to see a CAP on late fees. There is currently no such regulation. This may help with the concern over evictions which is another big issues. We don't want to see people on the street.

Yvette G. Robinson noted that there was a case in Richmond where the folks got the rent money together to pay the landlord but the family was still evicted. This is not right she stated.

Angela Navarro responded, yes that is part of the concern and ongoing conversation.

Mr. Ball stated that is why the state is looking at affordable housing and mixed use developments. We are concerned about gentrification and that is why we want to see more mixed used developments.

Grindly Johnson wants to change the discussion from housings to opportunities. Ms. Johnson stated she always brings this group opportunities but she wants to know what does this group want to see ?

Gaylene Kanoyton stated she wants to see 20% participation.

Chariman Bland stated he wants to see the college presidents held accountable.

Mr. Ball stated there was an honor system within the college system to report on SWAM activity.

Grindly Johnson stated she is seeing the needle moving. Again she stated , what are the opportunities this group wants ?

Chairman Bland stated it is not good to have only 1% or less of minority construction projects get awarded , we want to see more involvement.

Tracey Wiley passed out brochures to the group. There were not enough to go around the room. It was noted that the group visit the small business website for more information. Ms. Wiley stated localities have their own rules as it relates to awarding contracts. Her office can encourage participation in SWAM but can't do much outside of that . She specifically mentioned Loudon County. She has encouraged localities to work with SWAM certified groups.

Chairman Bland stated he sees this as an issue also in Virginia Beach. The Virginia Beach SWAM relationship as it relates to working with minorities is horrific.

Tracey Wiley stated that Va Beach has recognized the above and the state wants this situation to get better for minorities and women. In 2003-2004 1% of business was contracted with minorities and women. Now we see 11% engagement for Women and Minorities contractors. Microbusiness is also gaining access. These are for contracts at 10,000.

Angela Navarro also pointed out that small business and women contracts are at 30%.

Mr. Ball stated that if SWAM shows disproportionate awards then we will have factual evidence to pursue it and make improvements for better outcomes.

Grindly Johnson gave the group a homework assignment. She wants the group to give her ideas of what to bring to the meeting when it comes to SWAM. She has always given us opportunities and now it is on this group to shape the narrative for future discussions. She reminded the group to visit the EVA site to see all of the projects out for bid.

Grindly Johnson changed the topic of discussion to voting rights. She informed the group that there are 110 bills that she is overseeing and out of that number 100 are elect bills. The Governor rolled out a no excuse voting day and he wants Election Day to be held as holiday. She did mention that cybersecurity is a concern especially with what has happened with Iran.

The above guest were thanked for their presentation. It is now time for Traci Deshazor to direct the group towards next steps and how the meetings are structured moving forward.

Discussion: (Traci DeShazor, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth)

Traci Deshazor asked the group what subcommittees we want to have? She guided the group on not having more than 5 subcommittees. Traci Deshazor gave us the following questions to consider:

- 1) What are the most pressing concerns for African American Virginians in this area?
- 2) Where do we begin our work?
- 3) What information do we need to begin our work?
- 4) What perspective do we need to hear to complete our work?

The group has decided on the following subcommittee selections:

- 1) Education
- 2) Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform
- 3) Small Black owned business development
- 4) Health Equity and environment

There was a great deal of discussion around #2 and #4 as it related to the title of the subcommittee. Monica Reid wanted it noted that she strongly suggest that reform is noted alongside Criminal Justice – it should not stand alone. The group agreed to add reform to criminal justice.

Justin Bell advised the group that the title of the subcommittee does not preclude the group from shaping the narrative as it relates to the issues.

Please note that housing will be referenced in all four subcommittees.

Yvonne Lewis suggested that the fifth subcommittee be Voting Rights but she wants us to wait on this issues. The group agreed with the suggestion.

Traci Deshazor again stated she will work with board leadership to see how the meetings are structured moving forward. Ms. Deshazor also informed the group that she will get out the warning about Public Safety that Secretary Moran mentioned earlier. There is a coordinated effort with state police, Richmond police and the Capital police to ensure that everyone is safe. The dates that are of importance for the public safety alert are Jan 8th, 13th and 20th. Traci DeShazor also wanted to remind us that Governor Northam will give a 2020 legislative session announcement regarding historic justice. The announcement will take place in the **Patrick Henry Building's West Reading Room at 10:00 AM on January 9th**. She encourages members to attend if their schedules allow.

Chair's Report: (Gilbert Bland, Chair, Virginia African American Advisory Board)

Chairman Bland updated the group that he and Doctor Ivey Green are going to continue working on the strategic plan for the upcoming year. The recommendation of the strategic plan should be ready by the February meeting. Chairman Bland asked Traci Deshazor for the Governor to consider adding language to any Black History Month program is co-sponsored by the Virginia AA advisory board. Traci Deshazor said she can't guarantee that but the board will be invited to

any event that is held. Traci Deshazor explained to us the typical format of heritage month events. Kelley Thomasson also added that the guest list is limited to 100 participants. She said they will work with the board on the invitations.

Chairman Bland finished the discussion with the timeline for the letter. He will get the letter to us by Friday, January 10, 2020 and a full report is scheduled for later in 2020. Chairman Bland reminded staff that he needs Gena Berger's report along with the other presentations and documents to help with the drafting of the letter.

Justin Bell wanted to update the group on fundraising guidelines. He stated that every solicitation has to get permission (approval) in order to pursue it so at this time fundraising is prohibited.

Chairman Bland asked for approval of the November 7, 2019 minutes and were there any more corrections to the minutes? It was noted that corrections were given earlier in the day and that all names will be checked for accuracy and grammar changes will be made. The chairman called for approval of the minutes. Mr. Xavier L. Beale made the motion to approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Larry D Boone. The minutes were approved with corrections unanimously by the board.

It was noted for the board to mark calendars with the 2020 meeting dates listed on the Agenda.

Chairman Bland called to the meeting for adjournment at 4:45 pm. on January 7, 2020.